



Agenda

Friday, March 15th, 2019 at 9:00am Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Meeting

Teleconference Call in Conference No: 1 (800) 315-6338, Access code 54784#

Teleconference guidelines: Please mute your phone unless you are speaking. When speaking, state your name first. Soon after the meeting, be ready to receive a copy of the draft minutes to review and provide input within a short period of time. Thanks.

Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Please state your name and location before commenting. Thank you.

1. Attendance

Att	Type	First	Last	Location/Title	Representing
x	Member	Gordon	Glaser	Anchorage	Alaska Commission on Aging Designee
x	Member, Ch	Rosemary	Hagevig	Douglas	Public
x	Member	Phil	Hokenson	Fairbanks	Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Designee
x	Member	Bob	Pawlowski	Anchorage	Public
x	Member	Jana	Shockman	Anchorage	Public
x	Member	Ronald	Siebels	Anchorage	Public/Restricted/Veterans representative
x	Member	Gordon	Severson	Anchorage	Public
x	Member	Brenda	Shelden	Wasilla	Public
x	Division	Clinton	Lasley	Director	Central Office
x	Division	Tina	Cochran	Adm Ops Mgr	Central Office
	Division	Emily	Palmer	Soc Svcs Pr Coord	Central Office
x	Division	Megan	Bauman	Admin Assist I	Central Office
x	Department	Renee	Gayhart	Proj Coord	Department of Health and Social Services- Tribal
x	Department	Theresa	Holt	Ombudsman	State Longterm Care Ombudsman

2. Call to Order

A. Meeting start time: 9:00am, 3/15/2019

3. Discussion and approval of minutes from previous meeting.

A. Gordon S. move to approve, Gordon G. second. No objections, minutes approved.

4. Declaration and verification of any conflicts of interest.

A. None identified.

5. Public Comment:

A. None.

6. Unfinished/Old Business

A. None.

7. New Business

A. Brief on DHSS Tribal Partnerships and Opportunities - Renee G.



- i. The state of Alaska tribal Medicaid claiming process was established from S.B. 74 and is carried out by the DHSS Tribal Medicaid Administrative Claiming unit team. Whenever an Alaskan Native or American Indian is eligible for Medicaid waiver and receives health care through a tribal hospital or approved tribal provider, the state can receive 100% reimbursement (vs. the standard 50% reimbursement) from the federal government for the cost of those services. Referrals from a non-native provider to a native provider can also qualify for reimbursement if an agreement exists between the two providers and the appropriate records and documents are submitted. In FY17, the reimbursement target was \$32M; the final amount reclaimed was over \$35M. In FY18 the target was \$42M; the final reclaimed was \$45M. The FY19 target is \$84M; the current reclaimed amount thus far is \$65M and is on target to exceed the target amount. Tribal Medicaid reclamation is available to all states, however Alaska is the only state in the Union to utilize it to this extent. Of the Alaska Pioneer Homes residents across the state, just under 10% are Native Alaska (N.A.) or American Indians (A.I.) and many of those are Level III and eligible for Medicaid waiver. Some of homes' N.A./A.I elders are private pay and therefore do not qualify for Medicaid waiver, or for tribal Medicaid reclaiming.
 - ii. Rosemary – Was Senator Stedman's question about this topic answered?
 - iii. Clinton – Yes, Renee spoke with him herself.
- B. Legislative contacts communication update – Rosemary H., Bob P.
- i. Bob P. – Traveled to Juneau for two days in February and met with 18 Legislators and/or staffers. As the House was not organized at the time not much could be discussed, but the overall Pioneer Homes message presented was well received and most seemed very supportive. This board member believes with a concerted effort (especially from the veterans side) the AVPH roof replacement should be attainable.
 - ii. Rosemary – Spoke with multiple legislators and/or staff members in both formal office meetings and informally around town when paths crossed. By and large everyone seemed supportive, with new legislative folks requesting more information to come up to speed. Numerous legislators have personal connections to various Pioneer Homes (family members and friends who are residents) so hopefully there is strong support in both the House and Senate for the Pioneer Homes system.
 - iii. Brenda – Met with two legislators while in Juneau and provided a 10 – 15 minute presentation on the AVPH roof replacement; will follow-up with an email shortly (including a third legislator that was unable to meet in person) . It was brief but good, they seemed attentive and took notes.
- C. Review and discussion of VA Aid & Attendance Program vs Medicaid waiver – Phil H.
- i. Phil – The "VA Aid & Attendance vs Medicaid Waiver" handout was a brief document put together designed to show the difference between the two programs and how the Aid & Attendance program might be able to benefit Pioneer Home veteran residents. It is a complex program that takes a long time to get qualified for, is hard to understand and is often underutilized as a result, but believe it is worth looking into. It appears the asset requirements are a lot looser with this program, which would be good for our residents who are hoping to pass on things to their families. Once AVPH becomes a qualified VA Nursing Home, we'll need to see if the veterans at AVPH can receive both Aid & Assistance + VA per diem.



- ii. Clinton – Megan will set up meetings prior to July 1 with Josh Shaver, Tina Cochran, myself, Phil Hokenson and other VA folks (Verde Bowen, etc.) who can help us see if and how we can make the VA Aid and Attendance program work.

8. Reports

A. Division Director's Report – Clinton L

i. Governor's amended budget update

- a. Reported to the House and Senate Finance sub-committees; provided additional information to the DHSS Assistance Commissioner (Department's finance person) as it looks like we will have our Division budget increased slightly to provide more money to our Payment Assistance program, although we are still expected to bring in greater revenue to pay more of our own way. As such it looks like we might have enough funding to pay for folks who can't pay for themselves.

ii. Regulation package update

- a. We are continuing to move forward with the regulation package, it is a slow process so no news yet. The entire FY20 budget for our division was built based upon the increased rates so hopefully it will get closed out soon. I have met with numerous legislators (per their request) to provide additional information and numbers; so far everyone seems to be in support of the Pioneer Home system.
- b. Bob – Can you explain the accounting behind the increased rate, particularly in regards to the new Level IV and V rates?
- c. Clinton – Last year's staffing analysis showed that the highest level of care we currently provide (Level III) actually costs us \$170K a year to provide (we currently only charge \$82K). As such, we used that as a baseline and re-arranged the Levels of care. The new Level IV will be the current Level III elders and we don't yet serve any Level V elders (those will be the new complex behavior residents). We based the new rates on what it actually costs us to provide the services (historically the Division has kept the rates artificially low and it's just not sustainable anymore). Last year we paid \$57M to provide services at only 89% occupancy. The new rates were developed based on having a 95% occupancy and the numbers show that would only cost us \$60M. I can fill that 25 bed difference (89% to 95% occupancy) for a lot less with the new rates, as over 50% of beds are currently serving Level III elders (new Level IV). I am confident that with the new rates we can get and sustain 95% occupancy.
- d. Rosemary – If we can get more money into the budget now we will be able to supplement the elders who can't pay without having to request a supplemental budget; which will look much better for everyone.
- e. Clinton – With the new rates we will earn an extra \$5M+. As I told the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), I will not lie and say that \$15M will be enough to support the elders who can't pay without having to come back later and ask for more money.

iii. RFI for hospitality update



- a. RFI closes today (3/15/19) and according to DHSS Grants and Contracts at least one company has submitted a response. Once the Admin Operations Manager (Tina) and I have reviewed the results we will be able to determine if contracting out the remaining 5 home's hospitality functions will be a substantial enough cost savings to be worth it. If it is, we will submit a RFP. We have yet to hear from the Labor Union yet, but we are expecting push back at the last minute.
- b. Tina and I will send out an email to the Advisory Board if we are going to proceed with an RFP.
- iv. AVPH roof grant proposal update
 - a. The AVPH roof replacement funds are part of the FY20 budget; the goal for FY19 is to complete the federal/state grant process. The grant process is complex and requires submission of information on multiple websites, and Josh Shaver (AVPH Administrator) is having trouble accessing the last website. He is working with IT to get access and is hoping to complete the last of the application paperwork by next week.
 - b. AVPH had several inspections recently, all were passed except for one – the VA's Skilled Nursing home assessment; it only failed at several minor points that have already been addressed or are about to be. The largest factor was during the generator test; when it was ramped up to full power one of the hoses lost integrity. This is the original generator (40+ years old) and the hoses were just old. We test it monthly but ramping it up to full power is not part of our normal test. They will come back again to re-run the inspection in 10 days. To confirm, AVPH qualifying as a Skilled Nursing facility will not change our assisted living status – we are not providing any new services that we don't already provide, this new qualification only allows us to get greater reimbursement from VA for those services.
- v. Complex behavior neighborhood update
 - a. During the last meeting in Anchorage the Complex Behavior Neighborhood workgroup (comprised of AKPH staff members, other State Departments and private industry consulting groups) met with the city of Anchorage architects and engineers on re-classing the APH's entire south building from a residential R-4 to an I-1. Zoning requirements for R-4 and I-1 are essentially the same but I-1 has a greater ability to have different types of people housed there. The goal is change the entire building to I-1 (verses just the neighborhood wing) to reduce the large number of empty beds we have there because we currently aren't allowed to house Level III residents there (the largest percentage of elders on the waitlist).
 - b. Gordon G – Will APH/Complex Behavior Neighborhood work group have to go before the community council to get the zoning changed?
 - c. Clinton – The city's architects and engineers tell us no, this zoning change is low enough that it only has to go through the city staff.
 - d. Rosemary – Will we get push back for the types of elders that will be in this neighborhood?



- e. Clinton – I don't think so. We are not providing any new services, only to those folks who need the services but have certain complex behaviors that make them hard to place elsewhere (hitting when stressed, etc.). We will only be taking elders who fit the services we provide and that we feel safe and confident that we can help (by removing their environmental triggers) without endangering our staff, the elder or other residents. To confirm, the addition of this neighborhood to APH will not change our assisted living home designation.

vi. Miscellaneous

- a. Rosemary – Is the Board still asking for legislative intent for the FPH rebuild vs. renovate study?
- b. Clinton – Legislators have already asked me if the Division would need to renovate all the homes or build new. Told them we are currently asking for a study but long term will need to look into this.
- c. Clinton – The House finance sub-committee is doing a pre-close out (not including Medicaid) today.

B. Administrative Operation Manager's Budget Report, Budget updates - Clinton L./Tina C.

- i. FY19 budget looks good and on track, does not appear that we will end up with a deficit. We have been finding and implementing cost efficiencies and working on increasing the occupancy rates at all homes to 95%. We are using the extra \$200K in earnings to fund internal equipment upgrades. The goal this year in implementing the staffing analysis recommendations are as follows: 1) reach 95% occupancy by July 1, 2) finalize individual staffing changes at homes (and make more consistent division wide), and 3) APH complex behavior neighborhood.

C. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Report- Phil H., Ron S.

- i. The AVAC met in Juneau in January to meet with legislators. As the House had not organized itself, progress was not as effective as hoped. The #1 resolution we pushed was the AVPH roof replacement; when we met with the Governor, he wrote "MUST SUPPORT" on the report and handed it to a staff member so hopefully that's a good sign. Legislators were listening and indicated they cared but couldn't do much at the time because of the status of the House. Just need to keep to the pressure on. The new Adjunct General of the State Guard is fully in support, which is great and a support that we have not had previously before.

D. Board Chairman's Report – Rosemary H.

- i. The only additional information to share is that the OMB Director does a credible job of representing the Pioneer Homes in her meetings, and she has spoken multiple times of needing to find a middle ground regarding funding. She seems open to working with us, so if I have a chance to speak with her I will be sure to do so.

9. Chair's request for comments:

- A. Gordon G.: Most of the ACoA items are not connected to the Pioneer Homes, however we are pushing back on the cuts to senior services and are in full support of the Pioneer Homes.
- B. Bob: Reminder to all board members if you run into your legislators around town to please let them know that this advisory board is fully engaged and that we need their help.
- C. Gordon S.: None



- D. Jana: None
- E. Ron: Thanks to Clinton again for representing the Pioneer Homes and Advisory Board so well during this difficult period.
- F. Phil: None
- G. Brenda: None

10. Review of meeting action items – Megan B.

- A. Set-up VA Aid & Attendance brain storm meetings prior to July 1 with Josh Shaver, Tina Cochran, myself, Phil Hokenson and other VA folks (Verde Bowen, etc.) – Megan
- B. Send email to Advisory Board if proceeding with RFP – Clinton/Tina

11. Chair's Closing statement – Rosemary H.

- A. Thanks to all the board member's hard work and if you have a chance to attend your legislators' town halls, please do and help keep us in the forefront.

12. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn – Gordon S. motioned, Gordon G. seconded. No objections.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 10:12am, 3/15/2019

Distribution via email:

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